

# SN3262 – Network Administration, Management & Security

## Exercise 4: Scheduling Tasks

### The use of sleep, at and watch

There are several “commands” that can be used either in scripts and/or from the command line to perform tasks at specified times, after a specified interval or periodically.

1. Look at the man pages for **sleep**. Now write a simple script that will write “Hello there” 10 seconds after its execution has begun.
2. Look at the man pages for **at**. Now modify your script so that it writes “Hello there” immediately its execution has begun but delay its execution by 1 minute by using the **at** command. You can check that your job is queued with the **atq** command. Note the output will be mailed to you. You can read your mail by typing **mail**. In **mail** enter **type** and the output from your script will be displayed. Quit **mail** by entering **q**.
3. Now read the man pages for **watch**. Write the following script, make it executable and put it in your **/home/users/\*\*\*\*/bin** directory. Where \*\*\*\* is your user id.

```
#####  
## watchex.sh ##  
#####  
  
#!/bin/bash  
ping -c1 -w 1 149.170.195.144 | gawk '$7 ~ /^time=/ {print("Round trip",$7,"ms")}'
```

Now from some other directory enter

```
watch watchex.sh
```

What does the combination of **watch** and **watchex.sh** do?